TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 327 - SB 859

April 20, 2009

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006013, 006249): Deletes all language after the enacting clause and redefines "foster care" and "foster parent" so that the definitions are consistent with the provisions regarding adoption and juvenile court proceedings within Tennessee Code Annotated. Redefines "licensed clinical social worker" by requiring that the individual only be licensed by the Department of Children's Services to provide adoption placement services and not foster care placement services. Reduces, from 18 months to six months, the continuous amount of time in which a child has been in the care and control of an agency or unrelated person prior to the child being considered dependent and neglected. Establishes that a child who has been placed in the care of a relative for a continuous 12-month period is considered dependent and neglected if the child will endure substantial harm if removed from the relative.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

MINIMAL

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- According to the Department of Children's Services (DCS), the revisions to the definitions of foster care and foster parents will not have a significant impact on the operations of the Department.
- According to DCS, reducing the amount of time in which a child can be determined as dependent and neglected will have no fiscal impact on the operations of the Department.
- Any cost can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml